RANGE EXTENSION OF SCIRPUS SMITHII VAR. SETOSUS.

Bayard Long.

During a somewhat critical examination, recently, of the material of *Scirpus debilis* in the Herbarium of the Philadelphia Botanical Club, I found two sheets which were very evidently to be referred, not to *S. debilis*, but to *S. Smithii* — slender plants with the erect involucral leaf, and the characteristic, very flat achene. But the interesting feature was the presence of a perianth of four or five long slender bristles, in these specimens. Formerly, as herbarium material shows, these two species were very commonly separated by the presence or absence of bristles: plants with bristles being apparently referred without question to *S. debilis* and those without bristles, to *S. Smithii*. But it has been shown by Prof. Fernald that the distinguishing characters are to be found in the achene rather than the perianth, and that there is a form of *S. Smithii with* bristles and one of *S. debilis without* bristles.[1] The latter condition (of a variety differing from the species in the absence of bristles) is paralleled, as is well known, in several other Cyperaceae: *Eleocharis palustris* var. *calva*, *E. Engelmanni* var. *detonsa*, and the lately described *E. intermedia* var. *Habereri*.

Our two sheets are from Clementon, Camden Co., New Jersey, and Middletown, New Castle Co., Delaware. Another specimen in the Herbarium of the Academy, from Milford, Del., represents the same form. A few culms and achenes were removed and sent to Prof. Fernald and he has kindly verified their identification as *S. Smithii* var. *setosus*. Since this plant has been formerly known only from Maine, western Massachusetts and Illinois, our plants make a considerable southerly range extension. As Prof. Fernald suggests in his letter, from the scattered localities previously known, a natural expectation was that the variety would turn up probably throughout the range of the species. It is of interest to have, in part at least, shown this to be true. He further says: "In New England, varieties differing in the presence of absence of the perianth are usually — always so far as we have evidence — found quite by themselves and not mixed with the other form." Our stations very probably represent this condition, but conclusive evidence, as of field-notes, is naturally lacking. The

[1] Rhodora, III. 250 (1901).

material representing the Clementon station, however, consists of two plants on the sheet, and both are of the same form.

A suggestive point, however, comes out when the distribution and habitat of the typical form, and of the variety, in the Philadelphia region, is looked into. All our typical *S. Smithii* comes, so far as I know, from the immediate shores of the main course of the Delaware River, commonly within tide-water limits, and frequently submerged at high-water; while the three stations for the variety are a considerable distance back from the river,— in the case of Clementon about eleven miles — and naturally have a habitat distinctly different, the Clementon station being a fresh-water pond. This may all be coincidence, however, but it would seem to show that there are interesting points still to be solved concerning the distribution and habitat of species and varieties of this class.

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TETRAPLODON AUSTRALIS IN MASSACHUSETTS.— While collecting lichens near a small pond in the vicinity of North Brookfield, Mass., in June, 1908, I found in the sphagnum near the edge of the pond, a moss which I did not recognize. Later this proved to be *Tetraplodon australis* Sull. & Lesq. So far as I know this moss has not before been reported from Massachusetts, possibly not from New England.— FRANK DOBBIN, Shushan, New York.

NOTE ON SCHEUCHZERIA PALUSTRIS L.— The records in the hands of the Local Flora Committee show that this is a rare plant in the Boston District — partly from lack of mossy peat-bogs, perhaps. I found a good station for this species in Sharon, Massachusetts, June 27, 1909. Back of Billings Pond is a smaller pond surrounded by woods, but with a wide margin of peat-moss. In this moss was the *Scheuchzeria*, along with such other bog-lovers as *Decodon verticillatus* (L.) Ell., *Andromeda glaucophylla* Link., and *Gaylussacia dumosa* (Andr.) T. & G. The last was still in blossom, but the *Scheuchzeria* was already well fruited. This record was accidentally omitted from the list.— C. H. KNOWLTON, for the Local Flora Committee.

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